Chestnut Hill Free Library | 8711 Germantown Ave | Cope and Stewardson | 1897-1907. The Chestnut Hill branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia is the second library to stand at 8711 Germantown Avenue. Constructed of Wissahickon Schist, it replaced the Christian Hall Library Company of Chestnut Hill, a private library founded in 1872 by Henry J. Williams. The Free Library of Philadelphia assumed control of the Company by February, 1897 and replaced Christian Hall with the current building, designed by Cope and Stewardson. It was completed in 1907 but was not opened to the public until almost two years later. The building has seen two major changes since its completion. In 1992, a back room was added to serve as a community multi-purpose room, and in 1999, the library's interior was renovated.